RESPECTING FATHERS

THE ESSENCE OF A CHILD

OTTOHAHN MKANDAWIRE

2025

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First Edition

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Most of the scriptures used in this book are taken from the KJV and NKJV bible unless indicated.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is an inspiration from true stories and life events. Due to the things that I had encountered growing up and what ive learnt over the little years, I was being led by the holy spirit to write this book. I tried resisting writing it but I just had to let the will of God to prevail. It tries to bring knowledge on how we can be able to handle issues with our fathers so that we benefit from them.

It is also a guide to my younger brothers and sisters including the church family.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my senior pastor, Pastor Kaponda and the wife for being there and guiding me in my ways. Such a wonderful and lovely family they have. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have met them and being taught by them. *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine (1 Timothy 5: 17)*

I appreciate you sir and all you have done for me; may God continue to increase you in all that you do.

APRECIATION

I would like to appreciate all the friends that have been there for me in all times. Special thanks to my brother Hastings kachali, a wonderful and humble man. It's a blessing to have friends that are able to tell you the truth when you are wrong and not cheering you up when you are heading the wrong direction. I would also like to appreciate my brother Caleb Phiri the designer of the cover page for the book, I appreciate you sir and may God bless you for your wonderful work.

INTRODUCTION

A lot of young people are struggling in their homes because of different factors mostly from the immediate families that they grow up in. Some of the factors might be the environment, poor upbringing and the lack of love in the families. Fathers are very important in every person's life. It might not be your biological father but those who are taking care of you and are taking up that role of a father; is your parents. An example of such can be spiritual parents, uncles, aunt, cousins, adopter parents etc.

I know and I believe that as you venture into this journey to study this book, you are going to pick up one or two things to help you to live well with your family and preserve your destiny. I write this book on both spiritual and biological understanding. Join me in the journey of a righteous living as a child of God.

PRAYER

FATHER AS I STUDY THIS BOOK OPEN MY EYES AND SOFTEN MY HEART TO BE ABLE TO SEE, HEAR AND UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE PREPAIRED FOR ME.

Chapter 1

The origin of the book

Being a young man, one time I found myself having conflicts with my father. I pictured him as someone who was very bad in his dealings. As time was going, anger started to build up within me. So, for these things I decided to correct him, (mark the word **correct)**. In my own thoughts I saw that, what I wanted to do was the rightful thing to do BUT did not recognize the error that I was making. I and my father were not in good terms at that moment; the anger that I carried was too much for him.

As that time passed, I went to Blantyre where I met my senior pastor as he was already there. His name is pastor Prince kaponda, so I started to explain what had happened between me and my father. He was quiet and listened very attentively as I was speaking.

After I had finished narrating the story, he said to me "as you were speaking, there is a verse that was coming unto me". So, he opened his bible and said, open genesis 9:20.

Gen 9:20-26

20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard:

21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.

23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their

father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

26 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

From this scripture alone I was able to understand the error and the danger that is there for disrespecting fathers. I was like oooooh my God what have I done. Ignorance acts as our defense mechanism not knowing that it is leading us into destruction. Thus, why sometimes as a believer, have some time to ask God "where you are going wrong" and mend it. The danger is we might think we are with God while he is far from us.

Oooooh yes, you might be right but it's a different issue when it comes to the word of God. The reason behind this book is to guide us knowing we go to church to learn how to live when we go outside of the church, at home, at school, at work and wherever you might go in the world.

After seeing that I was still being compelled to write this book, I found out that alot of young people are also facing the same issue's and some even more and beyond so before they destroy their destinies, let them hear what God is saying to them.

This book is for everyone whether a child born in a certain family, whether adopted, whether a spiritual child. God has a word for you.

Someone might ask **WHO IS A FATHER**??????

I have three definitions for you

1. *Is a male who begats a child*
2. *A term of respect for an elderly man*
3. *A person who plays the roles of a father*

Choose which category you want to define your relationship in the definitions above.

A father is there to perform all the roles that are meant for the father. Some people don't have biological or spiritual parents but all in all there is someone who fits in that role. It might be your uncle or any person that is close and around you that brings an impact to your life. In churches it is the one who helping you spiritually to grow in God's word. Like the head of the church who feeds you with the word.

Before we go further let us also define respect. It's defined as *an attitude of consideration or high regards*. In my own perspective I might say respect *is the art of honoring someone or something*. In accordance to Exodus 20:12, which says *Honour thy father and thy mother.*

So respecting fathers its like honouring fathers/giving them the highest recognition.

Chapter 2

The importance of a father

1. **To raise you**

   The father has the responsibility of taking care and investing in you so that you grow and be independent someday.

   The bible in the book of 1 Samuel 2, you can see that as the child Samuel was born, he grew up in the hands of Eli and not the biological parents. Eli was taking up the role of a father in the life of Samuel. He raised him in the ways of the lord until the time was right for his ministry to start.

   The one that you have close to you is your parent no matter the scenario. Although some parents reject responsibility and run away but the one who has taken up that role of a parent deserves your respect.

2. **To teach you**

   Whatever a father teaches you keep hold of it. Sometimes the parent might not tell you in words but be active enough to learn from even his actions. Some other parents do things that is able to anger the people around but as a child of God learn from his mistakes and not condemn him, for the reasons that we are yet to talk about.

Prov 13:1
1 *A wise son heareth his father's instruction.*

In this scripture you can see that it has not said a wise son hears from a good parent alone NO. even if the parent might be wicked, it says hear his instructions. There is a saying that goes "sometimes there is wisdom in a foolish statement".

3. To provide for you

The father comes in with the role of giving you things that you are unable to find on your own.
Matt 7:11 (part b)
11 …*how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*
The responsibility of the father is to provide what is required for your survival and more.

From what I've seen is that there is a Lesson to be learnt from every situation in this life. you become a fool by doing the same thing over and over again. When something has risen, take it as a point to learn from.

In my little walk with Christ, I have faced somethings that seemed to be challenging but by the end of it, God has been teaching me something. It only takes those who have eyes to see what is in-front of them. I have seen some people become great-men just because their biological father was not there. Some of you might know what I am talking about.

WHY IS THIS LIKE THIS???

It is because the absence of the father brought the presence of knowledge and wisdom in their life. have you never seen people like these??

So, if the real father is not there, the ones that are there will be able to shape your life into a great person. To have this understanding it only comes when your eyes have been opened to reality.

May God, give you grace and open your eyes to utilize every opportunity you have with those around that take up the responsibility of a father in Jesus name.!!!!!

Chapter 3

The nakedness of the father

Some might ask, what do you mean by the nakedness of the father? Let's be together as we look into the scriptures.

Gen 9:20-22

20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard:

21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, ***saw the nakedness*** *of his father, and told his two brethren without.*

According to the oxford dictionary nakedness means the state of being naked, bareness, defenselessness, undisguisedness. The meaning that really caught my attention was "defenselessness". Meaning that he is very vulnerable that anything can be done to him. But now we need to know what the nakedness represent upon the father.

1. The nakedness of your father represents the problems that the father has.

It might be that he is

- A witch
- A drug dealer
- All the time the parent's fight
- You're a step child and the step-father or the step mother hates you

- Forgets the family once he receives the salary
- He acts as if he does not know you as his child
- He has ever harassed you
- He has chased you from home without any applicable reason
- You just mention and add that weakness that you are able to notice in a parent.

The nakedness are the problems that you sit down, you say these problems are very bad in my father. They are able to be noticed look at genesis 9:21

21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; ***and he was uncovered within his tent.***

It shows that as he was in his dwellings, whatever that was there was able to be noticed. Same thing with you and your parent, the nakedness are the problems that are able to be noticed on your parent that are not alright. BUT NOW, DO YOU LOOK AWAY OR YOU FIND WAYS OF EXPOSING HIM?????

I remember some time back in June (2025), we went to miracle grounds to escort our father Apostle Jabu. So, while there, prophet khonje the head of the ministry said a statement that caught my mind. He said "*If you have not become a father yet, don't speak against a father. Unless you become a father you are not allowed to speak against him*" again "*if you have not become a mother yet, don't speak against her.*

Unless you become a mother you don't have the power to speak against her". He gave an example saying you might be complaining that my parent does not do this for me, eeeh he does not buy that for me, he is stingy. Become a parent first and see if it's a simple thing.

2. The nakedness of the father represents the weakness that he has.

Some examples include

- A heavy bear drinker
- A womanizer
- A heavy smoker
- Short tempered
- Mention that weakness you know and personalize it.

Now look at this

*21 **And he drank of the wine, and was drunken**; and he was uncovered within his tent*

From this story you can see that without Noah taking wine this issue would not have been there. Now what I can say is that sometimes because of the weakness of the father, certain issues might arise in the family and you might have something to say on the issue but you do not have the power to correct a parent, SHUUUT UP!!!!!!

3. They are also expressed as the issues that affect your father and you are aware of them.

Let's look at genesis 9:22

Gen 9:22

*22 And Ham, the father of Canaan**, saw the nakedness** of his father…*

If we say that your naked, that means you don't have any covering for the body. Same thing the nakedness of the father are the issues that are able to be observed and you can point them out. Yes, the issues are there but young man, be at peace try as much as possible not to go beyond your capabilities and your level to correct the elders.

Mathew 7:1-2
1 Judge not, that you be not judged.

What power do you take if you correct the elders young man. For a parent is supposed to correct the children and the children are supposed to take heed of the instructions. WHAT ROLE HAVE YOU TAKEN NOW IF YOU THE CHILD IS THE ONE CORRECTING THE PARENT????

For the bible says, parents; train/discipline your children in the way that they should go, so that when they grow, they should not depart from it. The word training involves things like *introduction* to something, being *corrected* and then *progressing* to a mile further and become an expert in it. Same thing, the parent trains you, corrects you and helps you to become a better version of yourself. So, in correcting the parent, it's like you have changed the scripture saying "children train/discipline up your parents in the ways that they should go so that they should not depart from it" which is absolutely an abomination.

The reason is that God is the one who brings judgement not us. I wonder if Jesus would have been correcting his father, saying but you know what God, you are making a big mistake by sending me down on earth to die for the people. Or maybe saying but God why do I even have to be born young while I can just go and do

the teaching and come back, about the dying part you will do it yourself??

Jesus did not do like that; whatever word that God told him he did it. Some of the things were not even present to Jesus but he said I will do it. Remember the prayer of Jesus in the garden in the book of Mathew 26, he said "father let this cup pass me by" but after recognizing the extent of the issue he said again "but if it is your will let it be done".
Some of the things that your father might do might not be pleasing to you but when you come to understand that the one your angry with is your parent, keep quiet and pray that God should do a new thing upon you parent.

The importance of the nakedness of the father

1. The issues that are surrounding the father help us as stepping stones for us to go forward.

- You can only see this if the eyes of your understanding have been opened enough. That means a child who is able to open his mind and learn from the situations at home is wiser than the one who is just broadcasting everything that is happening in their home with the parents.
- I have ever heard the statement of someone saying, "my hard work is not to compete with anyone but be the one to change things at home". Which means whatever this person is doing he is looking at the situation at home and finding a way to deal with the issue and not to repeat the same mistake that the parents did.
- Same thing in the problems at your home, you learn from the current situation from your home and make a decision to do what your parents failed to do.

Whether:

a. they were not there for you, be someone who says I will be there for my family, I will be there for my wife, I will be there for my husband, I will be there for my children, I will be there for my siblings.
b. Even if the people might have been hating you, tell yourself that I will love my family and my children.

Be a person that will learn from the parent's mistakes.

2. The faults/problems of your father, helps you to know the proper ways for you to go because you are able to see which things are good and which things are wrong.

Gen 9:23

23 ***and Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father****; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.*

After Shem and Japheth **REALIZED** the nakedness of the father, the bible says; they took a garment and **LAID** it upon both their shoulders, for what? To **COVER** the nakedness of the father!!!! While not seeing the nakedness of their father. How wise were these two? When someone wanted to broadcast the nakedness that was upon their father. These ones said NO we have to do something about it.

Follow me on this one; if indeed you are wise, from the problems/weaknesses of your father you will have to take

something with you that will guide you on which path to take so that you don't make the same mistake.
Though you know that there are things in your father's life but you choose to pray for him and not to be the one to expose things that you are the one who has seen.
Be a carrier of good news and not bad news, be the person who prays for the father when he is not in the right state. For the bible says the God who see's you in secrete shall reward you openly.

Chapter 4
The blindness of a young man/lady

Prov 13:1

1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

As we can see the scripture above, a scorner is a child that does not listen or use the words that are spoken to him/her. The word that comes from his/her parents; they mock the words and talk as if they are talking to their friend or a young child Oooooh my God. I have ever met young ladies who speak on top of their voices to fathers as if the child is the parent and the parent is the child.

Finding out that the young lady is talking without stopping and the father is quiet I'm like oooooh my God what is this now? And sometimes I even know and see that this young lady; even to the husband that she shall have she will do the same.

But when such things happen, I feel sorry for the person and nowadays if the person is close to me, I call the person and tell them about this same message of respecting fathers. If you were one of such people today is the day that you change your ways as a child of God. WHY?

Prov 13:2

2 ***A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth****: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.*

Keeping quiet seems as if it's the wrong thing to do when you are angry/furious but at this point it's the very best thing to do. As a young

man what you have to carry is that in parents, there is a special blessing no matter the wickedness of the parent.

As you can see in proverbs 13:2, A man shall eat good by the fruits of his mouth.

Know that as a young man, what comes out of your mouth shall either build you or destroy you. Have you never been in a scenario where a person has responded or done something good to an elder and the elder says something like blessing you?? Same thing when you have done something wrong the elder might release something that can affect you, the whole of your life!!!!

Now let us look at the blindness of a young man.

The young man has a lot of potential but the way he carries himself destroys him because of his ignorance. Now we just want to look at some few points

1. **We are not able to see that we are the ones having a bigger problem**

   Mathew 7:3-5
   3 "And why do you look at the speck in your brothers eye but do not consider the plank in your own eye?
   4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?
   5 "hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye and then you will see clearly.

   So, I sat down and began to meditate on the words "plank and speck". In my findings; I found out that a plank is much bigger than the speck. According to the oxford dictionary the speck is a very **small spot** and a plank is a **stout length of sawn timber**; made in a wide variety of sizes and used for many purposes. Mind

you that the plank and the speck represent the magnitude of a problem. So, you can see that the timber is something that can even be processed into something oooooh my!!!!!

At the point that you are, because of the problem that you have that has blinded you. You cannot be able to see well and this might result into something else. Look at the plank for example, it is said that it can be processed into something and even in your case the problem that you have; is that you want to correct your elder and what you want to correct in your elders can mold something in that relationship. At this point once you release the words that you have, you can start up a fight between you and your elder, then; hate builds up in the family.

Even during this time; the elder might say something that might leave a mark upon your life. you will find out that some of the things happening to you it's because of that same word. Words carry the blessing or a curse in our lives and we need to be careful. Let's look at the story of Esau and Jacob, when the father new that his time was drawing to an end. From the book of genesis 27: 28-29

Gen 27:28-29
28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:
29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

From this story we can see that the young one was the one who caught the blessing which was meant for his older brother. If you

say that these were just mere words then *how come Jacob's life revolved around this blessing*?

And another question might be if they were just words then how come the father failed to say aaaaah it seems I made a mistake that time, come let me say the same thing that I told Jacob? Let's look at genesis 27:37

Gen 27:37
37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, ***Behold, I have made him your master****, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and* ***what shall I do now unto thee, my son?***

Even Isaac was like oooooh what can I do now unto thee? Because there was nothing he could have done. Words of the elders carry the power to even build you or destroy you. When you have a father, you have a covering and you are under his cover. Once the parent says I disown you, you are on your own and things start to crumble!!!

This has reminded me of a story about Baba Benson Idahosa and his son archbishop Duncan Williams. Duncan Williams was heading a church one time like a branch from the main church of Benson Idahosa, so one time the father was talking about the church as being his branch. Then Duncan after hearing this he said to Idahosa that this is not your church it's my church. Oooooh my God would he have known!!!!!!
It says that after what he said that day, Idahosa did not fight with him but just told him that alright since you have said so, let it be so. You are no longer my son you can go ahead with your church.!!

After being disowned by Idahosa, problems began to follow him, the police also came at his door that we have been looking for you for many years we were failing to get a hold of you but now we have found you. So, do you think this was just a coincidence????

Things were so hard for him that he decided to go back to Idahosa and apologize. He went there begging as he laid face down crying out "mercy, have mercy" and Idahosa his father forgave him and things began to fall into the right place again.

Know this young man, young lady. That father you have is your cover. It might not seem like it but when you come to realize it, it might be too late. Make haste now and mend on where you have gone wrong before things start to crumble.

Sometimes you might have a father that is not at home and there is no time you spend with him. Wherever he goes he brings problems with him. Wherever he shows himself, you know that trouble is here. He goes to drink and when he comes back you know that there will be a fight between the parents. KNOW THIS no matter the issue with the father but still more he is your parent. A father carries a special blessing for us as children whether you like it or not. I want us to also look at a very wonderful scripture that most of us know but now we would like to look in the perspective of a blessing.

Prov 18:22
22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and ***obtaineth favour of the Lord.***

When you look into this scripture you can see that it talks about favour, this favour is of God and not man and it is also given to a man/father. So now listen well and carefully, the favour that the

father receives from God is that one which enables him to raise a family, to take care of the wife, to take care of the children. Know this now, the father caries a special blessing from the lord not for the fathers benefit only no but for those that he is in charge of.

Starting from today change your mind towards fathers because the bible says that God is favorable to everyone even the wicked one, have you not heard? God placed you in that family for a reason and one way to know that you are going the wrong direction is how you handle the parents.

2. The young man thinks that he is better than the elder because of the generation that he is in

As young people, we start to think that we know better than the elders. This is one thing that is leading alot of people to destruction. For example, you will find out that an elder who is mostly concerned about the life of a young man, he will always be there to say something like an advise but in most cases as the youth we despise the words of the elder saying "zimenezo ndizakale" (meaning those are long gone). But there is something that we need to see

John 14:12
12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and ***greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.***

Jesus was the one that told the apostles that whatever you have seen me do. They also will do it but now he says the one who believes also shall do **greater works**. Mind you he did not say the one who believes in me shall be better/greater than me!!!!! The

presence of a father helps you to reach your potential knowingly or unknowingly.

I remember one time we had a conference at church and the guest minister was prophet Muzira. As he was teaching, he said a statement that I keep till this day. He said “you can do greater things than your father but you cannot be greater than your father”. This word caught my mind and some day as I was studying the bible I came across john 14:12 which just agreed with what I heard that time.

Now look at it from a spiritual stand point. You can be a great teacher of the word more than your father, you might be a great preacher more than your father, you might do mighty miraculous things more than your father, but THAT DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE GREATER THAN YOUR FATHER!!!!

In addition to that, you might not know this but fathers struggle so that the coming generation should be able to walk on a path that has already been created by them. Don’t make the mistake of despising your spiritual fathers!!!

Speaking from a physical/biological stand point, you might have gone further with studies than your father, maybe you have done a lot of investments more than your father, maybe you have gained a good reputation than your father but all in all that does not make you greater than your father.

You might not believe me but let the holy spirit open the eyes of your understanding. The simplest thing to carry with you is that without him being the man that he is, you would have not been the person that you are today. In simple words it’s like because he was born, you were also brought into this life through him. That’s how much important your father is. Don’t waste time to be a

criticizer of the father and be the one to appreciate him when he is gone.

I have seen people that carry regrets after a person is gone. Words like would I have known I would have treated him better, would I have known I would have taken heed of his instructions, would I have known I would have told my father that I loved him. Would I have known won't mend anything the only thing is that you can just pray that God please forgive me I didn't know what I was doing. God is merciful!!!!

Now let me speak in the perspective of those people that don't have a father in scenarios where he left as in, he denied you as his child or maybe he is dead or you don't even know who your father is. As I have already said that God is merciful, He always makes sure that there is someone who might play the role of a father in your life. it might be an uncle, an aunt, a mother can also take up the roles of a father, a cousin, a stepfather or anyone that might take up the roles of the father in your life.

That person is enough, take him as someone who is heavenly sent. No matter the scenario. Yes, some people have the capabilities to hate others and make their lives look like a living hell but I have a word for you. Ask yourself a question, why am I in this family? Sometimes you might not understand the reason why but as a child of God the word speaks better things. Listen now my friend

Rom 8:28
28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

If you are really a child of God this verse applies to you for sure. And the first question might be DO YOU LOVE THE LORD?? If yes then know that in that family you are there for a reason. You do not know that you are the one chosen by God to change that family of yours? You are in that family for a reason!!!!!

No matter how much you hear people say you are a mistake. Say in your heart that I am called of God and I am here for a reason for all these things are working for my good. Where have you heard this? GOD SAID SO, God said so my friend, eeeeeh this love ayaa yaaa yaa yaaa..

Look here, the whole world was looking for a savior; Jesus came!!! A generation was in need of revival and righteousness, Noah was there!!! God wanted to raise a great and mighty generation he used Abraham!!!! God was in need of someone to become a priest because those who were there had gone wild, He sent Samuel!!!

So now look here, that family needs someone who is supposed to guide them out of that Egypt, God wants to do something with a generation and what has God done? HE HAS SENT YOU TO BE IN THAT FAMILY!!!!! GLORYY TO GOD!!! Say to yourself that I am not a mistake!! I am in the right place and at the right time!!!

Let me tell you a story

Sometime back in 2023 during the times when I was receiving the instructions of writing this book. I came home for holiday in

mzuzu and we had a certain youth service. So, I was the one preaching that day. I taught on the same topic of respecting fathers and we were just a few at that time.

So, a certain friend came and said that you know what sir. The message you were teaching it is as if you were just speaking to me. He told me that I live with a stepfather and at home we don't live well it's as if he hates me, from what I told him, "I was like use the words wisely" nothing much.

Sometime went by and during the rainy season, there was an issue that arose. The house that the father was sleeping in fell while the people were sleeping and worse than that it only fell on the father from the head side ending at the stomach.

He was taken to the hospital and his face had swollen up showing that things were not alright. The young man was the one waking up early in the morning and going to give the food to his stepfather at the hospital. He was the one assisting the father to eat and sometime to lift him on the bed to eat and sit. But while there the father was amazed that most of the people that were coming to see him where people from the church.

So, one day came that as young man lifted his father and sat down. The father started sobbing and this friend of mine started thinking that something worse is about to happen. Then he asked the father what the issue was. To his surprise the father released these words (I'll say it in English but it was said in tumbuka) "Son please forgive me, I did not know what I was doing and did not know that you live well with people".

He came back to me and said sir, thank you for that word because it has changed my life and the situation at home. Blessed be God!!!
So, I was like what if I had not preached this message this day? What would have happened? But God has a word and in due season it is supposed to manifest. This is the appointed time for you to also walk in the right path.

Now I want to tell you that in that family, you are not a mistake. Something is cooking behind the scenes that you can't see. Shower that love of God that you carry, one day the benefit of it shall showcase itself. That parent that seems to be hating you, keep loving them. There is a time known as the due season that they will recognize that your presence has changed something in their lives.

3. The young man does not have the word to sustain him.

A lot of people move and walk in this life with words from their mental capacity and think that they are Christians enough. The word of God is what brings light into our lives. I remember prophet Muzira said "the word that is in our hearts is there to keep us from sinning".

How will I know that God is telling me something if I have not come to recognize his voice? How will I say that this thing that I am about to do God does not want me to do it? How will you know that this thing that I want to say, God is not pleased with it? It's only by the word of God that we find light to guide us.

It's the word that guides us to know the right things to bring to the father. In simple words, I can say that the word of God is what

drives us to know what we will pray for in our lives. Otherwise, the devil also uses it as a channel to mislead people. I want us to look at something that is very important. Lets listen to this

Exod 20:12 (part a)
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: ……..

When you look into this scripture you can see that it says honour thy FATHER and thy MOTHER. Are there conditions in this statement at all??? One thing that I have seen is that the instructions of God come with a blessing at the end of it in most times. When you study the scripture be able to notice how God operates.

God said you and me are to honor our fathers and mothers but one thing that you have to see is that **it did not say** honor a father that is well presented, not a womanizer, is a deacon, is a pastor, is a teacher, is a respectable man. The bible comes with a different approach to remove the perspective of the mental capacity.

That means it does not matter the state of the parent that you have. What you have to do is **to honor the parent.** That means a smoker, a thief, a womanizer, a deserter, a wicked one, a witch. Whatever the state of the parent the word says honor them.

I know that sometimes you might be fade up with all the activities, the criticisms from outside your house. Sometimes you might even think of just being the one to take over and teach them a lesson but I have a word for you, **honor your father and your mother**. In honoring the parent, it shows that you are a wise person and not a foolish child. From now onwards you shall be one of the wise children in that family in the name of Jesus. Even

the parents will wonder at how you have changed and how you are moving with your life.

If you are not born again this is the time to turn your life around and start moving with the spirit of God. From that statement what I want to say is that the spirit of God helps you to live well with those that are around and it guides you on the things to say. Not everything is supposed to escape your mind through your mouth. The spirit has the power to teach you what to speak and how to do things.

Do you remember Jesus, he said I will send you a helper and **He shall teach you all things.** That means in this life there is nothing that is hard for the lord. The holy spirit is ready to help those that are ready for a change in their lives.

I have a friend and he is a prophet, so in most times when we chart you'll find him saying something and in the middle of the speech you will hear him saying "mmmmh okayyy but the lord is good". So someday I asked him why is it that you say this and when we ask you, you just say the lord is good but do not want to say anything so he said "it is not everything that you think of speaking that you speak, sometimes it's better to keep somethings".

So, you can see that the holy spirit has the capability of bringing discipline to our speech and our ways. Lets look at the bible the book of timothy

1Tim 4:12
12 Let no man despise thy youth; ***but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation****, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity*.

You say I am a child of God, but are your ways and speech an example to the believers? Yes, you preach, we hear your messages but are your ways an example to the believers and even to your brothers? You're a great worshiper but is your speech any different from the non-believer? If you find yourself having the same characteristics with a non-believer, there is something wrong with you.

You need to run quick to God and ask him to help you. Another question might be you claim to be a child of God and when you speak on top of your voice to the father. How come the holy spirit does not correct you? Which holy spirit do you have my friend? Because, if you say you have the holy spirit within you one proof that you will have is that when you are about to or have done something like this, the holy spirit corrects you right there and you even know it.

From this day forward, you are no longer a blinded young man anymore because God is opening the eyes of your understanding this moment.

Chapter 5

lessons from the life

of king David

1. David was a good teacher

He made sure that those who were around him should know the truth about the lord and his ways.

1 Samuel 24:6-7

6 And he said to his men. "the lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the lords anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the lord.

7 so David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

David's life was a testimony to those around and God expects you to also be a testimony and reflect the nature of Christ to those who are around. The life of David also shows that he was able to correct those that were around him, in all matters so that they should know their position and not miss what God is saying.

1Sam 26:8-9

8 ***Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.***

9 ***And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?***

You can also see that when Abishai wanted to raise his hand and be the one to kill Saul, David rebuked him right there and tried to make Abishai know his position and not sin against God. How many people are in our lives that are doing the wrong thing but we fail to correct them because we are afraid of ruining an earthly friendship?

When you look at verse 9, you can also see that a person who carries the presence of the lord does not find peace in the wrong doing.

9 ***……for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?***

What makes you think that in wrong doing, the lord is happy with you?? One thing you have to know is that, if you indeed claim to carry the holy spirit and whenever you are about to or have done a wicked thing and the holy spirit does not correct you, you have a strange spirit and not the holy spirit.

You are not supposed to be a teacher by profession for you to teach someone, you are not supposed to be a preacher first for you to preach to someone, you are not supposed to be an evangelist for you to tell someone about Jesus. Your life is supposed to be an example to that your friends, family & relatives should learn something from it.

From today you shall be an example to those around in the name of Jesus. According to 1 Timothy 4:12 be an example in word and conduct.

2. David was open to corrections

King David was open to be corrected in his ways, I think that's the reason why he was the man after Gods heart. When he had received correction, he was quick to act upon it. Some of you when you have done something wrong, even knowing that the Lord is correcting you. You go ahead and seek for scriptures/quotes that support your stupidity wake up young man/lady, don't be deceived.

1Sam 24:5-6
5 *And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart troubled him, because he had cut off Saul's robe.*
6 ***And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master****……..*

The moment he had cut off the robe of the king Saul, the bible says that his heart was troubled meaning in wrong doing there is no peace and the lord is not pleased. That is the reason he had to tell his men that this thing I have done, the lord forbids it. Is your heart open to correction or maybe you are a big man and you only hear what you say?

Some of you, the moment someone corrects you, that means you have stopped talking to that person, you will lose important people that are destiny helpers if you are not careful. Sometimes I thank God for the friends that I have who are able to tell me the truth whenever I go a different way. For example, I have a friend

and his name is Caleb, he is one of those people that respects me highly because of my calling. But this does not stop him from telling me that, aaaah my friend you are missing it here. I would rather have friends like these around me than have a multitude that cheers for me even if I am taking the wrong direction.

Young man, young lady be open to corrections and take heed of the instructions so that God might also be pleases through your life.

3. David followed what God told him and not the suggestions of the world.

1Sam 24:6
6 *And he said unto his men,* ***The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master*****…….**

Remember that these people were the ones that told David that the lord has delivered the enemy into your hands. From the statement that was spoken by one of the men you can see that its indeed relevant but was it what the lord wanted to be done? David was more concerned about what God is saying and not men. Because the men were like telling him kill this man but God was like I have given you this opportunity for something else!!!

A lot of people have the tendency of accepting the opinions of the world more than what God is saying. For example, maybe God has told you something about selling tomatoes and now; you and your intellectual mind has seen that a lot of people are selling maize and making money. You go ahead and start to sell what others are also selling instead of following what God wants for your life.

Know that in the instructions of God there is prosperity. For what God says, all you have to say is “yes sir, now how do we move from here?”. Also know that what God tells you to do will be sustained by him and what you decide to do on your own, you will sustain it yourself.
If you say you are a child of God, hold film what God says to you than what the world is saying.

4. David was quick in recognizing greatness

1Sam 24:6
6 And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, ***the Lord's anointed****, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing* ***he is the anointed of the Lord.***

After the lord had denied Saul as the king, the lord departed from him but this was no concern of David. This issue was between Saul and God and David had no part in it. But what David did, really amazed me, though he knew that the lord had chosen him now to be king. He did not look down on Saul and gave him the high respect that he deserved.

Saul became wicked towards David but the young man was not driven by the actions of people. To him what mattered was the opinion of God and not men. The person that you are living with might be treating you badly and wickedly but that does not mean you have to fall into the same thing.

The actions of people should not define your reaction, let the holy spirit react and show them what is inside of you that they also will be drawn towards your light. For the bible says you are the light of the world.

King David was being searched so that he should be killed. This might seem to be reason enough to go and attack Saul but from what he said we can see that in David, there was wisdom. "***Touch not the lords anointed***". This was a great recognition of the presence of God upon Sauls life that David saw. Be able to recognize the grace upon your father/parents my friend.

5. David's action was able to lead Saul to recognize the greatness upon king David

1Sam 24:8-17

8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.

11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

12 The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

14 After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.

15 The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

16 ***And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept****.*

17 ***And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.***

After all that Saul did, David chose his actions to be recognizable to the king. David would have killed Saul but he chose that his actions should speak and not him dealing with Saul knife to knife. That is why the bible says be yea examples to believers. Imagine the men that David had during that time. In numbers they were many and from what these people learnt on this day it changed their lives.

How many people can use your dairy living as an example to teach someone? how many people get blessed with the wisdom that you share? What is it that makes you a different breed than that of the world? Know that the impact of your life is how much of God people see. Let your actions show that you are a different breed from the world in this life.

6. David recognized quickly that judging Saul was not in his power or capacity though Saul sinned against him

1 Samuel 24:15
15 ***The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee****, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.*

David knew and carried the understanding that judgement belongs unto God. But you can see that Saul was seeking the life of David. Moreover, David was a mighty man of war; he had all the ability to carry his sword and go to war with the king but for the anointing that was upon Saul's head, he refused to be the judge of the elder.

Know child of God that it's not in your capacity to judge the elders, be at your post as a child and let God be at his post as the judge. As I already said in the early chapters of this book that if you have not become what you want to judge (father/mother), you don't have the power to judge keep quiet.

7. A day will come when the father will admit his wrong if he was dealing wickedly

First time

1Sam 24:16-20
16 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

17 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil*.*

18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

Notice that as Saul, noticed that it was David who had done this act of sparing his life. He even spoke a word of a blessing upon the life of David. He also admitted plainly that he was wrong and showing that David was right. In one book written by Bishop Dag Heward mills entitled those who honour you, he said "honour is rewarded with more honour. When you sow honour you reap honour".

No matter the situation, at the appointed time, the truth will come to prevail and the love that you showed shall come back to you. Remember the bible says what you sow is what you reap. When you sow love in the family what you will get is the same thing.

Over time I have noticed how the young generation thinks they know better only to realize that they don't know anything. I have seen people who have disobeyed/fought their parents, only to see that when the problem they were warned about now is at hand. They go back to the same people for help. I believe that you have examples of your own and you can see what I am trying to point at.

Second time

1Sam 26:21-25

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23 The Lord render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the Lord, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

when you love the father despite of their issues, it's like telling them that I care about you and you have placed a value for their life. notice Sauls words "…….. ***because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day***:……". Saul came to realize of the honor and respect from David through his actions and something clicked in his head that oooooh NO, I think I am wrong.

A reminder all through this book is that, your actions might attract a blessing or a curse. As you can see from 1 Samuel 26:25,

"*25* ***Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail****…."*.

Saul after treating David wickedly, he got repaid with good and recognized it. In addition to that he spoke a word of blessing to David. Those people that seem to hate you now will be the ones to also bless you in the name of Jesus. Child of God be diligent.

Chapter 6

Dangers of disrespecting fathers

There are a lot of dangers that are associated with disrespecting fathers. Even as you are reading this book the lord is opening your eyes to see beyond what this book has captured. Let the eyes of your understanding be opened to the new reality in the name of Jesus.

1. **There is the possibility of receiving a curse for the generation that you carry.**
   Gen 9:22,24-25

   22 And Ham, **the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father**, and told his two brothers outside.

   24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.
   25 *And he said,* ***Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.***

   Notice how the bible says that, Ham was the father of Canaan!!! But then as we go further, we can see that when Noah realized what had been done to him. He said CURSED BE CANAAN. That means the lives and destinies of a generation was destroyed just because of the foolishness of their father Ham.

   Be able to notice that the curse was not laid upon Ham the father but Canaan the son. So, it means that the foolishness of the father costed the lives of the children and his generation.

Don't be a child of God that acts foolishly in certain conditions that require wisdom to handle. One question that I usually tell my friends is that, "imagine how you can feel if you get educated and find all the money that you can get in this world but your children are all foolish?". imagine having many companies but no one to replace you when you are gone? It can be a very sad thing and sometimes things like these are able to take the elders to the grave quickly because it affects their lives once they see that none of their children is going far in life.

It is not only from spiritual parents where one can receive a curse from but anyone who is called a parent to you. If there is such thing as a blessing, then it means there is also such a thing as a curse.

2. You can lose your way

Luke 15:11-13
11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:
12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.
13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and ***took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.***

When you look at the prodigal son, you can see that he thought that he knew what he was doing but he realized it late. Better for him that he realized it late but for you child of God, you might start a journey with no return. The moment you step into it you are gone.

The prodigal son thought that I think I am now a man I can manage my own life. I don't need my father, who is he to me? Of what importance is he to me? Even the work that we do, we do it ourselves!!!

As you are busy saying these words the enemy is also at the door knocking saying, yes sir/yes mah keep going. Keep going and in your heart you even marvel saying they are going to hear me today (apapa nde andimva). You don't even know and not aware that the enemy has used that to destroy your life. once you have detached yourself from the father it's when now you realize that oooooh so that man was the one covering me? Oooooh so that man was the one protecting? It might be too late I tell you.

My spiritual father Apostle E Jabu told us one time that "*THE GRACE THAT HAS SAVED YOU, IS THE SAME GRACE THAT WILL SUSTAIN YOU*". Sometimes because you are blinded with what has accumulated upon your heart, you are even unaware of what is really happening you might remove yourself from the source of your protection and loose your way.
You will not be one of those people that are going to loose their ways In Jesus name.

3. It is a sin

1Sam 15:23
23 ***For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft****, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

Rom 6:23
*23 For **the wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The one who calls him/herself a child of God, is the one who hears that word and does them not just hear them and then go his way!!!
One sign that the word is not with you and that you are not a carrier of God's word is that **you are a rebellious child.** The bible is saying that rebellion is like witchcraft, meaning if you are a rebellious child, it's just the same as practicing witchcraft. It's not me but the bible says it.

As a child of God, you have to be someone who carries the word of God upon your heart in each and every condition not just when you are going to church on Sunday or you are just going to preach. Let me also tell you young man who has the platform to preach/teach, let your words reflect what you do.

4. You can shorten your life

For me to carry this word with me it's because I don't want to die before time. God has placed more for me in this world and I need to attain it as quick as He pushes me.

Exod 20:12
*12 Honour thy father and thy mother**: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee**.*

I wondered how God would prioritize honoring parents before all these other things. It's the first commandment that he placed for mankind after talking about honoring God himself. The bible says

if you are able to honor them, you shall live long and if you don't, automatically it means you shorten your life. There is a bigger picture to this thing of honoring the parents that a person cannot see unless the word is in the person.

Chapter 7
The importance of honoring fathers

The main reason for this book is to know the benefits and the goodness of honoring fathers in a biblical standpoint and even to the biological standpoint. As a child of God, you should know where you stand and not be carried away by the ways of the world.

1. **If you are a son, you just need to honor him because it's the law.**

   Mal 1:6
   6 **A son honoureth his father**, and a servant his master:……

   If you are a son/daughter, the first thing that we have to see is your honor to your father. In words, what you say about him should show that you respect the man no matter the scenario at hand. In actions/conduct, let your actions be show that you honor your parent greatly.

   So, it's simple to say if your actions and words does not honor the father then it's like your side is the disrespectful one. I don't need to sugarcoat it.

2. **Honor acts as a seed in your life.**

   Gal 6:7
   7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

I caught this revelation in 2023, knowing that some of the actions that I take, if I do them foolishly, I might also see them in my lineage and generation. Have you ever seen the children of a father that treats the children well and they grow up in loving home to turn out to be wicked people in the community?

I have ever seen people who acted foolishly towards parents and have seen the same traits in their children also. WHY? Because what you saw is what you reap.!!! If you have ever lived in a ghetto before you might understand what I am trying to say.

Another example that I have is a certain place in mzuzu (Malawi) known as chiwavi. The people from that side might know the people that I will talk about but will not put their family name here. What I want you to see is that what you do, might affect the next generation because it acts as a seed.

So, the father of the house was a dealer known by the community who was involved in illegal businesses and gang related issues. He could beat up some of the people who was doing the deals with him once he got angry. He would go to the police and be released the very next day. So it happened that the father also had two sons who were also picking up the traits of the father. Once the children get into an argument, the community would know & come to watch them fight and no one would get involved. Once you get involved, the two sons would gang up and beat up the one who is trying to stop the fight. But during these times the father had already stopped doing such things but now it was stuck in the children!!!!

So, child of God, sometimes ask yourself this question. Is what I am doing here the things that I want to see in my children? Is this what I want to see in my family? If not then save yourself the trouble and start sowing the right seeds now. Sometime back I heard my spiritual mom saying something that touched me. Though she was addressing the women but I caught it strongly, so she said "*sometimes make the right choices and decisions that in the future it should not become a burden that will become a prayer point*".

Child of God its high time you change your ways and mend where you have gone wrong for the sake of the future. If you know you have missed somewhere please ask for forgiveness in good time.

3. There is a covering that you receive from the fathers and even from God

Mark 14:6
6 And Jesus said, ***Let her alone; why do you trouble her? she has done a good work for me.***

Notice how Jesus was able to defend this woman even though the whole room was against her. The people were like aaaaah aaaah why is this woman here? What is she doing? Why is she troubling herself? Why has she bought an expensive perfume just for the feat of Jesus, the money would have been used to help the poor?

But notice that, her actions were a sign of honor unto God. What she did in that room, no one had done it. She honored God in return God also honored her by backing her up to cover her. How great it might have been to face criticisms and receive cover from the greater power, from the lord himself!!!! Ooooooh my!!!

Once you keep hold of God's word, he'll also keep a hold of you. The way to call for Gods attention is using his word; he does not do things out of his words.

I have seen people who have been good children from the start. And when an issue arises, the parent is the refuge. I'll give you these examples; there was a certain young lady from our place and it was that the lady got pregnant.

The father was disappointed but accepted the child and sent his daughter to school for her to finish her education. He took care of everything concerning the baby and made sure that the child grows well. That's the cover you get for being a person of a respectful nature.

But if you deal foolishly, you might face the consequences and even leave a mark upon your life for a very long time. Let's look at this case

I had a friend whom started being involved in bad companies. **He was being warned** but he continued doing the very things that they told him to stop doing. One day the mother was fade up when she caught him with his friends after buying a lot of expensive alcohol.

The mother just told the young man that, you know what I think you have now grown to make up your own choices well. I am done with you. This was a turning point for his life, he was a guy with a great future. Imagine that he was living in a house alone, owned by his aunt who was in the United Kingdom and she was only visiting after two months. His mother was in the same city

but different location. Every time when the aunt comes, she made sure to bring something for him. But he blew up this opportunity.

He came back to apologize to the mother and the mother forgave him but it took time. Though the mother forgave him but told him that you should now learn to survive by yourself.

Child of God, no matter what, don't let anyone take you away from your cover. Once you get exposed, then you are in danger. Don't let the destructive opinions of other people take you away from the covering over your life.

4. There is a special blessing in honoring father.

Exod 20:12
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: ***that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.***

Gen 9:26-27
26 And he said, ***Blessed be the Lord God of Shem****; and Canaan shall be his servant.*
27 ***God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem;*** *and Canaan shall be his servant.*

1Sam 26:21,25
21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: ***for I will no more do thee harm****,* ***because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day:*** *behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.*
*25 Then Saul said to David****, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail****. So, David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.*

When you look into the scriptures above, you can see that in honoring fathers there is a special blessing to it. When you look at the 10 commandments, you will find out that after God had spoken about the respect and fear of the lord, he spoke about honouring parents in the first place because your life starts at the place of honor.

In the 2nd scripture, you can see that Shem and Japheth received a special blessing from their father because of hounoring him. The respect that these sons had for their father was able to attract the blessing from him. And the stupid son received a curse because of his foolish ways.

In the 3rd scripture, there you can also see a young man David full of respect for his king and the anointing of God upon his servants. The lord himself delivered Saul into the hands of David twice but none of these times did David strike the king. His actions attracted blessings even from the same man that acted wickedly towards him and wanted to kill him. Something that I might tell you is that, because an opportunity has presented itself to expose/open your mouth against your father it does not mean you need to do so.

Let me stress on this point, the bible does not say honor fathers that have a good reputation only; NO, that respect church members; NO, that live a modest life; NO. It just said honor them, no matter the nature/status/behavior just honor them because they are important and carry a special blessing for your life and its high time that you take it.

5. You are privileged of having/partaking of the great inheritance of the father.

Luke 15:26-31
26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.
28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.
*29 And he answering said to his father, Lo**, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment**: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:*
30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
***31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is yours**.*

When I was studying this verse I was like wooooooow. What a powerful thing it is. But the thing is that the elder son did not know that he has a greater possession in that house. So, the moment he would have gotten angry and left the house because of his young brother, he would have lost alot.

So, in the story of the prodigal son, we take the point that, the one who honors the father has privilege of full access of the father's possessions. If the father said "*all that I have is yours*". Then this means that even what the younger son was taking from, was just a portion, I tell you just a portion of the possessions of the elder son.

Inheritance is not in the abundance of material things gotten but what you have captured from the father. That is why some people can inherit material things and by the end of maybe some years, the materials that they inherited is gone. Know that there is more in father that some of the things you cannot even see.

Chapter 8
How to honor fathers

1. Submit to your father

1 samuel 3:1
*1 The boy Samuel ministered before the lord **under Eli**. In those days the voice of the lord was rare; there were not many visions.*

In the time of Samuel, visions were not common but God raised Samuel under the supervision of Eli to be able to open up that realm of visions to a generation.

In your family, there are things that are rare and God has placed you there to open up a new reality of himself. Samuel was growing and his growth was under supervision. Can we say that your life is in the same way? Is someone supervising your life or you are a big man that does not want to hear anything from any man?

Samuel's greatness was under the supervision of someone. He was humble enough to respect the man Eli **though his house was in problems.** There is no day in the scriptures that I see Samuel talking against Eli because of his wicked sons!!! Except when God told him to!!!

Some of you, the parent that you have might try to discipline you but you go like "if you have failed to discipline your own children

then you want to discipline me!!!". Child of God, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?????
God has placed something in you that is not for the crowd. All you need to do is to submit to that father that you have been given by God.

Some of you might think just because your life looks to be better than your family members then you are on top of them!!! THIS IS A GREAT MISTAKE. Sometimes I tell/remind myself that the way I am today, the prayers of my parents played a bigger part for me to be here. So, whether I spend 3 hours in prayer everyday more than them, it does not mean I am on top of them!!!!
Know your stand and learn to submit yourself to the father.

2. Keep hold of their instructions

Prov 13:1
1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction:…..

Prov 4:20-22
20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

The words of the father are important in someone's life only if your eyes are opened to that reality. Ever heard of the saying

"*sometimes there is sense in foolishness*". Follow me on this one....

It might seem you are playing a fool when you are keeping hold of instructions of the father but in actual sense you are capturing wisdom.
I have a friend that in most times that we are charting, you will find him quoting his father's words. But when he told me about his father, he was like my dad's ways are not good man. He drinks in such a way that the whole community knows about him and sometimes people are the ones that bring him home after heavy drinking!!! But I have seen that this guy honours his father despite the conditions surrounding the father.
Keep a hold of those instructions and don't lose them.

3. Learn to acknowledge your father.

John 4:34
*34 Jesus said to them "my food is to do the will of **my father**" who sent me, and to finish his work.*

John 6:38
*38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that **sent me(heavenly father)**.*

If Jesus himself was able to acknowledge his father in all what he was doing. What is stopping you from doing the same?? Sometimes in our churches we confess; ooooh I just want to be like Jesus, are you sure? Prove it at this point, being like Jesus is not only in praying for long hours.

Yes, things are not working and you are able to see too. Your role is not to criticize your father but start from where he has failed to and move forward. Don't be a bearer of bad news.

There are times when people are trying to talk about my father that I leave the place. Sometimes if they are elders that I cannot correct are the ones saying it that I am also there, I keep quiet while they speak and don't release anything. I can't sow a rotten seed now, there is a destiny waiting for me!!! I want some of my good characters that I have to also be imparted on my children in the future and that they should work from there and improve on my mistakes.

Learn to acknowledge your father young man/young lady. In addition to that, there is also something that I saw. The people that tell you bad things about your father, are also in most times not there when you need help. It's the same father that they stand against that provides for your needs and stands with you in your troubled times.

4. **Be able to recognize greatness upon your father's life.**

1Sam 24:6,8

6 And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.

8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

There are high possibilities of people having faults but learn to recognize something good about their lives. We learnt earlier about the life of David and some of the lessons. We were able to see that saul became wicked towards David but David still was able to recognize greatness upon the life of king Saul.

Find something good to talk about your father. Yes, he is poor but he has tried to put you into school. Yes, he is not available but still he is able to feed the people at home. In such acknowledgements there is a special blessing from the lord just waiting for you.

It is not only one time that we see David recognizing the greatness of the king.

1Sam 26:16

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the Lord liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, ***the Lord's anointed****. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster*.

This was the time when he was addressing the king's guards that they were sleeping instead of protecting the king. David called Saul the lords anointed and if you read the scriptures well you can see that Saul was rejected by God himself. But David still speaks highly of him, WHY?? There was something hidden in the honour that he was presenting.

It was the second time that he spares the life of king Saul but STILL was able to recognize greatness of king Saul. Child of God, honor them by recognizing greatness upon their lives.

5. Stay with your father

In staying with your father, it shows honour no matter the situations surrounding him. Previously we said that a father is our coverage and we should not walk away before time. Let's look at two cases

Case 1: Elijah and Elisha

2Kgs 2:4,6

4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. ***And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee****.* ***So, they came to Jericho.***

6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. ***And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee****.* ***And they two went on.***

Elisha new that this man has carried something for me. If I leave him, I will lose it. He tried his best to stay there so that he see's something happen in his life which Elija was doing.

Don't let anyone fool you to leave your source of blessing. There are certain things that are supposed to start from home. Other people pray and go to church but there is nothing that points out that difference when they reach home. Issues might arise and problems might come that you might be tempted to leave the house for a different place but STAY!!!! I tell you again STAY!!!

Case 2: Abram and Lot

Gen 12:5

*5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and **Lot his brother's son**,..*

Gen 13:1,5

*1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and **Lot with him**, into the south.*

*5 **And Lot also**, **which went with Abram**, had flocks, and herds, and tents.*

As you read the book of genesis, you can see that God did not call Lot. But the blessings that Lot enjoyed was through his uncle Abram who was taking up the role of a father. To the point that when Abram is prospering, he (Lot) also was prospering. Know this child of God, your blessing is attached to that person you see as a useless person I tell you. Do yourself a favor and stay!!!!

So, the bible says that Lot started having problems with his uncle Abram because of the flock and he decided to leave.!!! Eeeeeeh, would he have known!!! Lot walked out from his source of blessing and coverage; this was a great mistake. You can see that Lot ended up in a place that even costed the lives of his loved ones. His wife was gone just because he walked out from his source of blessing and coverage. If Lot would have stayed with Abram, I really do not think that the things that happened to him would have happened in that way. I believe that God would have even entrusted him with something saying “because I loved Abram and you have been faithful carry this!!!”.

But even though he walked out from the presence of Abram his uncle but his uncle did not forget him. He was still the one who prayed for his preservation and the family. Lot lost all his possessions because he had positioned himself on the wrong place at the wrong time. Child of God I am here to announce to you, some of the blessings that you are enjoying now, it is because of that father that you are despising.

When you look at the life of Lot you can see that he had it all, but because his coverage was out of the way. He ended up messing up. Child of God STAY!!!! I REPEAT STAY!!!

6. **Sometimes tell them that you love them and even how best they have tried to be there for you.**

   Sometimes these simple gestures seem useless but you don't know what it stirs up inside of their spirits.

7. **Stop being the bearer/carrier of bad news.**

   Yes, sometimes there might be issues in your life and in that family but do not be the one to be carrying it out to the public saying that "I will expose him, I will expose him". Learn to keep quiet on some issues and look unto God if you say I am a believer. There are times when people start to talk about an elder, I leave the place. To the point that I got used staying in my room than be at a place where every issue that you talk about is about another person. One word that I carry with me, is that there are certain issues that I don't need to know. If I am not involved or it does not concern me or there is no solution that I will bring. I'd rather not know about the issue.

Let God be the judge of the situation than for you to take up the role of God.

Gen 9:23

23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and *they saw not their father's nakedness*.

I will repeat this, STAY AT YOUR POST AS A CHILD AND LET GOD STAY AT HIS POST AS THE JUDGE.
If you were the carrier of bad news, today marks your turn around and it shall be a different case in the name of Jesus.

8. If possible, rebuke the person openly in a loving way.

1Sam 24:4,6

4 And ***the men of David said unto him****, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.*

6 And ***he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.***

Imagine the men that were with David on this day!! All of them carried something that changed their perspective because of what he told them. This was a teaching enough for a wise person knowing that God is not pleased in wrong doing. Know that those around you, are watching your life closely and they are learning something from it. But now the question might be are the people learning something GOOD or BAD? The answer comes from you.

There are times when I had to tell my siblings that eeeeeeeh my friend that is not someone of your size have some respect. I remember a certain day my brother answered something to an elder because he was angry, I slapped him right at the spot. If my ways are not teaching them something then something is very wrong. I need to be an example even starting from home.

One day one of my sisters was trying to tell me something about my father I said to her “eeeeeeh my friend wait over there”. I carried her to the sitting room and sat her down, opened the scripture for her, the same genesis 9:20 and taught her what I learnt from my pastor. She was like oooh oooh I didn’t know about that and I am sorry for that. Know that your life is like a movie that people are watching and learning something from it. IS IT GOOD or bad? The answer is with you now as you are reading this statement.

Go and be an example.

Matt 11:15

15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

The leading of the holy spirit is to him who has accepted Christ in their hearts and if you are not born again yet and would love to receive Christ as your lord and personal savior, this is the right time, lets pray together this prayer.

LORD JESUS, THANK YOU FOR MY LIFE. THANK YOU FOR DYING FOR ME ON THAT CROSS FOR MY SINS. I BELIVE THAT YOU DIED FOR ME. I CONFESS THAT I AM A SINNER, COME INTO MY HEART AND TAKE CHARGE OF IT FROM NOW TILL I COME IN YOUR PRESENCE AMEN.

PRAYER FOR A BELIEVER

GOD THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORD THAT CAME SPECIALLY FOR ME. THANK YOU FOR CORRECTING ME, TEACHING ME, GUIDING ME AND LEADING ME ON THE RIGHT PATH OF MY LIVING. HELP ME GOD TO LIVE BY YOUR WAYS AND NOT MY WAYS. FORGIVE ME WHERE I WENT WRONG AND MAKE MY LIFE BE AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE AROUND ME IN JESUS NAME AMEN.

THE END

NOTES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ottohahn Mkandawire is the firstborn son of Chimango Mkandawire in a family of six, blessed with four brothers and two sisters.

He is a dedicated student at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Science, pursuing a degree in Technical Education Technology with a major in Automobile Mechanics.

Alongside his studies, Ottohahn serves as a teen pastor at Rebirth International Ministries under the leadership of his spiritual father, Apostle E. Jabu.His love for guiding the younger generation and honoring the role of fathers inspired him to write Respecting Fathers-a heartfelt tribute to the legacy and impact of fatherhood.

Respecting Fathers is more than a book-it's a reminder of the timeless values, sacrifices, and wisdom that fathers bring to families and communities.

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